

MEDIATION

When you file for divorce, paternity or motion to modify and you have minor child(ren), you and the other party will be court ordered to the Domestic Relations Unit for confidential mediation. Mediation is an approach to dispute resolution in which an impartial mediator assists parents to reach a mutually satisfactory parenting agreement. The mediation will focus on issues related to the child(ren) and the emotional processes of the family, but will not include financial or property aspects of the action.

The mediator will listen, clarify issues, and help parents negotiate. In general, mediators will not give advice; they may however, comment on the developmental needs of the child(ren).

Once ordered mediation is mandatory. It is not mandatory that you reach a settlement only that you appear for the appointment. Attorneys are not present for these sessions. You will not be asked or required to sign anything without consulting your attorney.

Mediators are not lawyers and do not give legal advice.

INTRA-FAMILY MEDIATION

Intra-Family mediation is a dispute resolution process which brings the family together in order to resolve conflicts. During this process, acceptable solutions are developed that benefit the parties involved. It's non-adversarial in nature and the parties determine the outcomes. The mediator will help the family voice their concerns, facilitate open communication, clarify any misunderstandings and assist the parties in finding new ways to manage conflict in the future.

Intra-Family mediation is facilitative in nature. Mediators will attempt to facilitate the voluntary resolution of the dispute(s) expressed by the parties involved. Although the mediator may suggest ways of resolving the dispute, he or she will not impose their judgment on the issues discussed. The participating child(ren) must be between the ages of 12-17 years old.

Family Court – Juvenile Division

Main Court

920 North Vandeventer Ave.

St. Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 552-2000

(314) 552-2260 (Fax)

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday (Except Holidays)

For More Information:

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Mediation & Special Court Services

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Special Services Department Manager

(314) 552-2500

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If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:

**THE AMERICANS with
DISABILITY COORDINATOR,
JANICE KOCH**

at

920 North Vandeventer Ave

St. Louis, Missouri 63108

or by telephone

VOICE (314) 552-2118

TDD (314) 531-6158



Mediation & Special Court Services Unit



Family Court - Juvenile Division

3827 Enright Street

St. Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 552-2395

(314) 552-2393 (Fax)

Main Court: (314) 552-2000

Main Court Fax: (314) 552-2260

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday (Except Holidays)



As a result of your dissolution, paternity or modification action pending before the Court, custody and visitation of your child(ren) may become an issue about which you and the other party will need to make important decisions. At times, custody and visitation issues are difficult to manage. Consequently, the Court has a number of programs available to assist you.

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

To assist parents in learning about the effects of parental conflict on the child(ren), the Court requires attendance at 1½ hour parent education course. The course is offered twice weekly and includes information about the detrimental effects of parental conflict on the child(ren).

The course reviews typical coping behaviors that parents may see in their child(ren) as they learn to accept the changes in their family unit. The goal of the program is to assist parents in understanding the effect of these changes on their child(ren) and to keep the child(ren) from being used by one parent to vent anger toward the other parent.

To register for this program call Kids In the Middle, Inc. at 909-9922.

SUPERVISED VISITATION

On occasion, the child(ren) cannot be allowed unsupervised contact with one of their parents.

The Court has a supervised visitation program using experienced master's degree level staff.

These services are available on Wednesday evening from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If supervised visitation was ordered in your case, you may access this program by calling Provident Counseling's Heritage House. Please leave your name, a time and number most convenient to call you back. Services will not begin until both parties have had an intake appointment.

Heritage House
2650 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
Ph: 535-7729 Fax: 533-1006

SAFE CUSTODY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Court may order that the visitation exchange of your child(ren) be completed with the assistance of the Court's safe custody exchange program. This program allows a custodial parent to bring the child(ren) to a safe, neutral location where the exchange of the child(ren) between parents is monitored. The facility is arranged in such a manner that the parents do not see one another during the exchange.

The exchange program is available on Wednesday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and on Sunday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you have been ordered to participate in the safe custody exchange program, you may arrange to do so by calling Provident Counseling's Heritage House at 533-1006.

REUNIFICATION VISITATION PROGRAM

At times, a parent may have had a lengthy absence from his or her child(ren) but is interested in reestablishing ties. A supervised reintroduction has been found to be less traumatic for the child(ren).

The Court offers a supervised visitation program run by master's degree level staff. These services are available on Wednesday evening from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If supervised visitation for purposes of reunification was ordered in your case, you may access this program by calling Provident Counseling's Heritage House at 533-1006.

ENFORCEMENT OF VISITATION PROGRAM

After the Court has ordered visitation in any dissolution, paternity or modification proceeding, there may be instances where access to your child(ren) has become problematic. To assist parents in these circumstances, the Court offers a program aimed at enforcement of visitation and custody rights.

A deputy juvenile officer will attempt to mediate any disputes to resolve the existing difficulties and obtain compliance with the order.

If compliance is not achieved through mediation, the parent who is interfering with the other parent's custody rights can be ordered to appear in Court by filing a Family Access Motion.

If you encounter problems in obtaining temporary custody of your child(ren), you may access this program by calling 552-2394.